

Acknowledgement

National Council of Women of Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Victoria and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. NCWV pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



ALERT To foster our relationship with RHSV, our postal address is now: 239 A'Beckett St Melbourne, 3000. PO Box has been closed.

QUOTE: *The International Day of Charity, established the objective to sensitize and mobilize people, NGOs, and stakeholders around the world to help others through volunteering and philanthropy. The date of 5 September was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace." UN Resolution 67/105 adopted by the General Assembly.*

From the President, Elida Brereton



We have held our AGM for the year 2023-24 and it was wonderful to see so many in attendance - in person in a packed Florence Room at Ross House, and by Zoom. It was also good to see new faces and I hope those present who are not members will consider joining. I thanked Ronniel Milliken, trying to have a holiday in Canberra, for conducting the Zoom.

I also thanked all of the Executive, especially Pam Hammond for her key role and hard work in organizing the Pioneer Women's Garden event and "My Vote, My Voice", not to forget her great work in producing our Newsletter. Many thanks go to Robyn Byrne OAM and her Advisers for their work to make our Standing Committees effective.

Sheila Byard OAM was a most effective Returning Officer and the AGM and September Individual Members and Council Meeting ran smoothly.

The issue of overt support for the members of one of our affiliates, the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, was raised, in the context of the killing of six Jewish hostages, and I am including here my words from this year's Annual Report:

As an a-political and secular organisation we have been more restrained in some key events than I would have liked, but the tragedies continuing in Ukraine and from the atrocities of October 7th 2023 in Israel and deaths now in Gaza, have not been ignored, and on behalf of NCWV I issue a statement regarding our deep sympathy with our Ukrainian and our Jewish members and the desire of NCWV that influential world leaders would assist actively in the reaching of peaceful solutions that do justice to the innocent victims in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza.

In December, with the Executive, I developed and shared a Statement from NCWV calling for tolerance and peace: *We stand by our members who are suffering as a result of the conflict in the Middle East, especially through antisemitism and nationalist prejudice, in Melbourne, a city which has been a leader in the successful blending of our large multicultural population. We are appalled by hate speech and ignorance displayed by some in this City and endorse all actions taken by authorities to bring peace.*

I am sure that we all abhor the deaths of the hostages. We also support the seeking of a peaceful, lasting solution to stop deaths of innocent women and children in particular.

Congratulations go to Emma Fu who has received a Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Award to enable her to learn more about NCWV, especially as she was elected Treasurer. Grants are still available to assist members to participate in the November 21-22nd NCWA Conference in Adelaide (see p.3)

The 2024 "My Vote My Voice" at Parliament House on August 9th was a great success with over 66 students involved and visits to schools to present awards will take place in coming months. Thank you all who attended and Pam Hammond for making this key event happen (see p.5)

Keep Thursday November 28th free for our End-of-Year Luncheon.

NCWV Annual General Meeting, 5 September, 2024 held at Ross House, Flinders Lane Melbourne

With 24 in person and 18 online, the following members were elected to the Committee, unopposed:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| President: | Elida Brereton |
| Vice-President A | Pam Hammond |
| Vice-President B | Guosheng Chen |
| Treasurer | Emma Fu |
| Secretary | Vacant |

Convenor Standing Committee Robyn Byrne OAM
Representative Individual Members Sheila Byard OAM
Regional President Nonie Crozier, Geelong President
General Members: Ronniel Milliken, Hean Bee Wee AM, June Anderson, Deborah Towns OAM



Sheila, Hean Bee, Pam, Elida, June, Emma, Robyn
The Annual Report is available on the website:
<https://ncwvic.org.au/publications.html>

At the September Council Meeting that followed



Speaker was Prof. Dr Manjula O'Connor, Chair, Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Family Violence Psychiatry Network. She co-founded the Australasian Centre for human rights and health (ACHRH) in 2012. Manjula presented on *"Gaps in the current services for CALD survivors of family violence"*

Manjula revisited the 2016 Victorian Commission into Family Violence, with the 227 recommendations calling for system-wide reforms to better prevent and respond to family violence. Recommendation 199, the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor (FVRIM), was established, to track the progress of system implementation and report to the Victorian Parliament.

The FVRIM consulted widely and found, amongst other factors, that **mis**identification continues to occur. Misidentification of perpetrators in cases of domestic violence, can be challenging as there are often conflicting claims of abuse. This can have negative consequences and fear experienced by women. It can mean that the actual perpetrator is not held to account and can continue abusive behaviour. Also, if the woman is seen to be the perpetrator, court processes can be initiated against her and she may lose financial benefits and other supports.

Evidence suggests that women are more likely than men to use violence in self-defence or resistance to ongoing trauma. A 'real' victim is seen as submissive/passive, cooperating with law enforcement, rather than 'overreacting', being emotional, confused about detail, putting their version etc.

Manjula emphasised the need for better information sharing and assessment processes to prevent misidentifications and protect victims from further harm. She also discussed the challenges faced by women, particularly migrant women, who experience family violence and abuse, with language issues, family pressure, false allegations, threats to children, pressure to withdraw protection orders etc.

She quoted data that one in ten women are being misidentified on protection orders, especially ATSIC and migrant women. Police focus on single incidents, without always knowing the context, and err on the side of caution, deferring to the magistrate to decide if an order is needed, who may not know the full context either. There needs to be better support, knowledge and understanding from the police, legal and healthcare systems.

Manjula made recommendations including:

- Guidelines for police and judiciary to recognise coercive control and training for them and service providers;
- Improve decision-making between police and the courts;
- Guidelines for magistrates on recognising inappropriate application and/or orders.
- Legislative powers for the courts to find that misidentification has occurred.

NCWV Council Thursday 3 October, 2024, 12 noon

We look forward to you joining us **in person** at Ross House in Flinders Lane , also via ZOOM. There will be refreshments again.

Speaker: Madhavi Srinivasan Johnson from Chennai Sth India. "UNICEF - A Promise to Stay for Children in Crisis".

She moved to Australia in February 2019 and lives in Melbourne. Her passion for and engagement in women's issues and girls' rights led her through a 26-year career in international development/humanitarian work with UNICEF in India, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Kenya, Namibia and USA HQ (New York) to promote human rights and gender issues affecting children, design strategies for programming, advocacy, communication for behaviour and social change. She held senior positions in Namibia, Kenya and New York and has travelled extensively in the southern African region. She published her first collection of short stories titled 'Demon on Fire and Other Stories' in 2020. She is currently working on her second book, a creative non-fiction recounting her experiences in Africa.

League of Women Voters Victoria, Sheila Byard OAM:
1988 NCWV Affiliates Women's Grove of Honour, Royal Park

11 September 2024 (Wednesday), 10am - 12 noon: Please join us for a visit to The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, 50 Flemington Road Parkville Victoria 3052

Please aim to arrive by 9.50 am at the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliaries Shop - 4 on the map

Public transport Trams 58 and 59 stop outside the hospital. Tram route 57 stops nearby. Parking: Ticketed parking available under hospital. Entry 1, 2, 4 from Flemington Rd. https://www.rch.org.au/info/az_guide/Car_parking/
Hospital map: <https://www.rch.org.au/info/hospital-map/>

This is an excursion for National Council of Women of Victoria Inc. Individual Members Group & Members & Friends of the League of Women Voters Victoria.

Thanks to Megan Harrington, RCH Foundation Head of Auxiliaries, for arranging for us to learn about the new RCH School *Yalingbu Yirramboi*, that received \$3.6 million support from the state government, and to see how the RCH worked with the City of Melbourne in making the parkland more accessible for patients and their families.

We will also commemorate the role played 35 years ago by the late Sylvia Gelman AM MBE, then NCWV President, in mobilising the affiliates of NCWV in an innovating planting project in Royal Park, the **NCWV Bicentennial Women's Grove of Honour**. In attendance was Winsome McCaughey AO, Lord Mayor of Melbourne for the unveiling of a memorial plaque, a significant contribution to the 'Decade of Landcare'. While part of the planting has disappeared under the RCH extension, we hope to explore having the plaque reinstated.

Please register by COB Monday 9 September, by lodging \$20 by EFT to the NCWV Individual Members Group account, including your name and the code RCH.

Bank Details: BSB 083-028 Account number 72-029-0085

Email payment confirmation to Beverley Kannegiesser, Bookkeeper, bjkanner@gmail.com

For further information contact LWVV: President Dr Deborah Towns OAM (0402133176), NCWV Delegate Robyn Buccheri (0412561254), Secretary Dr Pam Williams OAM leagnewvoters@gmail.com

To reply to have lunch at **Thyme Squared**, 243 Flemington Rd, North Melbourne, ring Sheila (0439 365 688).

We plan to make a donation for the work of The Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship Committee. RCH Auxiliaries Patron is Penny Fowler AM and the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Nursing Development Scholarship Patron is Janet Calvert-Jones AO

Contact: President Dr Deborah Towns OAM, Secretary Dr Pam Williams OAM at leagnewvoters@gmail.com

SYLIA GELMAN AM MBE BEQUEST

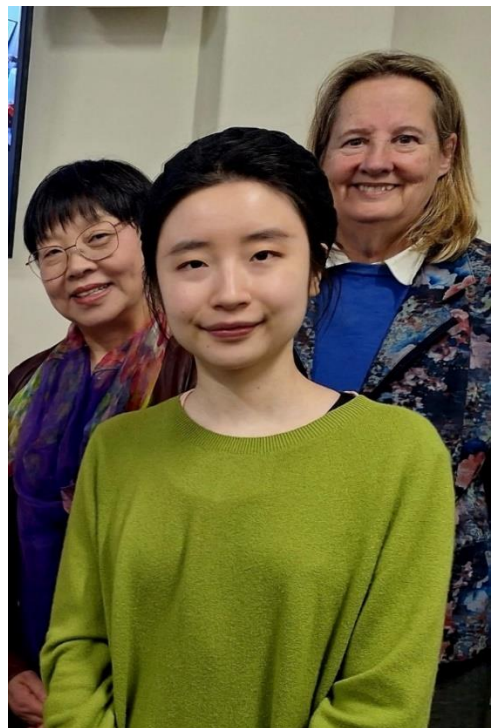
Elisabeth Newman AM, Convener

It is with much pleasure that the Committee of Management wishes to announce that Emma Fu, the newly elected treasurer to NCWV has received an Award from the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest which will enable her to study, in depth, the role of treasurer and in general the functioning of NCWV and its links to NCWA and ICW-CIF.

She will also gain a good understanding of the Women's movement. Emma came to the attention of NCWV in 2016 when she received a Civics and Citizenship award at **My Vote My Voice**.

Being inspired by the mission of NCWV and wishing to become more involved in the empowerment of women and girls she became a member of Young NCWVic. Soon after she became involved with the Standing Committees and was appointed the Economics Adviser, a position she still holds. Emma graduated from Melbourne University with a major in Economics and Finance. While establishing her career Emma has held a number of positions involving holistic well-being, health and technology innovation. While studying and establishing her career Emma was unable to be an active NCWV member, but maintained her membership. Now able to take an active role, she wishes to learn more about the organisation and its links to ICW-CIF.

Emma (centre) with June Anderson & Robyn Byrne



The Committee of Management for the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest wish Emma well.

ALSO: The Committee of Management for the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest wish to remind NCWV members that two grants are available for the NCWA AGM and Conference in Adelaide 21st/22nd November 2024.

The grants, worth \$700 each, are to enable two NCWV members to attend the NCWA Conference .The Grant is intended for any member of NCWV, whether Delegate or Individual Member, wishing to learn more about the Council and its link to NCWA and on to ICW-CIF. It is an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant to take an interest in the running of NCWV by becoming a member of the Committee or a Standing Committee Member.

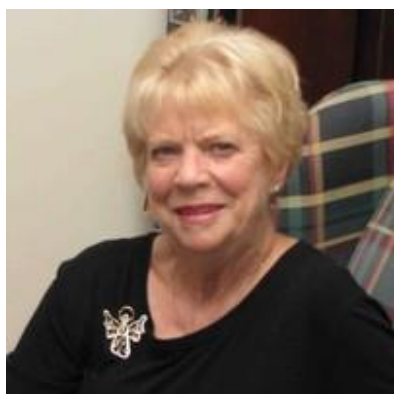
Any member of NCWV may apply for a grant which is designed to cover the registration fee for the Conference and to assist with a return airfare and accommodation. Applicants are requested to send, via email, a brief synopsis of their involvement in NCWV and why they wish to attend the NCWA AGM and Conference; how attendance will benefit their understanding of NCWV, also of NCWA; how they envisage it will assist them in becoming an active, participating NCWV member.

The successful applicants will be expected to submit a written report of their experience.

Applications, and/or queries, are to be sent to the Committee of Management, the Sylvia Gelman AM MBE Bequest c/o the Convener, Elisabeth Newman AM elisabeth_mn@hotmail.com with a copy to, Hean Bee Wee AM hbwee@bigpond.net.au Applications **close Friday 30th September 2024.**

VALE Judith Ada Ryles OAM

Born 1938 died 2024



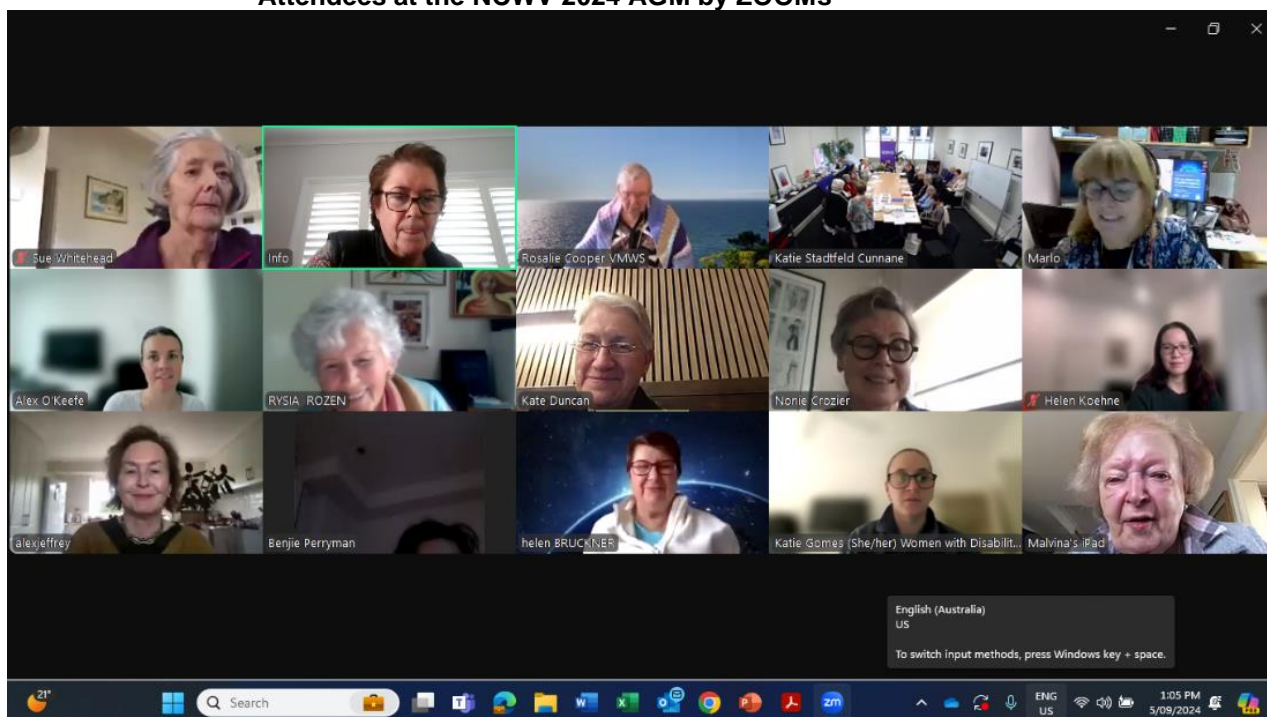
The citation for an award received by the late Judith Ryles recognised “her long-standing and wide-ranging Services to the Community of Melbourne, which includes being a long-term NCWV member, Delegate for the Larnook Former Students and Honorary Acting Treasurer of NCWV; Honorary Treasurer and Fellow of the Home Economics Institute, Melbourne and other institutes and societies in Melbourne, including University of Melbourne, State Library, National Gallery and President of Friends of the Elms. Judith was a Senior Lecturer in Food and Nutrition at Deakin University.

Her award acknowledges her decades of *pro bono* work on behalf of groups in the Melbourne community.

As a Home Economist she was involved in education and various professional associations of Home Economics at State, National and International level.

“Judith has given generously of her talents in a quiet and unassuming way. Her passion, dedication and commitment to the various areas over many years has been inspirational. Our heartfelt congratulations to Judith Ryles on this most deserved recognition!” Vale, Judith, from NCWV

Attendees at the NCWV 2024 AGM by ZOOMs



ADVISER NEWS

Education Adviser: Pam Hammond Med (Maths Ed) -Update: Students Take Over Parliament!

The outstanding annual student event ***My Vote My Voice***, conducted by the National Council of Women of Victoria, held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House Melbourne, was on **Friday August 9th 2024, 9:00am-12:30pm.**

Keynote Speakers: Meena Singh, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People; Missi Joyce, Youth Council.

Students from 12 government and independent schools addressed the topic: ***Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse***, designed to encourage students to consider the effect of Social Media on themselves, their peers and the wider community.

The schools were: MacRobertson Girls HS; Rosehill SC; Al Siraat College; Jiayuan Charity; Kingswood College; Beaumaris SC; Camberwell HS; Star of the Sea College; Melbourne Girls Grammar; Elwood College; Fribank Grammar; Ivanhoe Girls.

Meena set the scene initially by outlining her role as Commissioner. This is to advocate for and protect young people in out-of-home care (with relatives, share houses etc) youth detention centres and spaces where they are vulnerable. They advise government on how decisions affect young people, including the issue of minimum age of detention. They require organisations to be child safe and if not to rectify this.

The Commission works with a Youth Council made up of young people with lived experiences, who advise them and improve what **they** do. At a Forum designed to address why students should be involved in politics, the comment was made about the accuracy of information on social media, saying the print media would be better. As we know, this is not always the case.

Banning social media is not the way to go, as it can deprive people from the many positives: information from a range of sources; staying connected with friends/family and being supportive when needed and more.

Meena stressed that those who abuse social media must be held to account and punished. They should be banned! Young people need to make their own decisions, as they need to do for drugs, alcohol, sexual behaviour etc. A better approach is to provide education on social media safety to young people, parents, and age-appropriate access.

Missi then spoke of her experiences after leaving home. Her siblings were broken up, so they needed to keep in touch via social media, to support each other. She also stated that young people need to make mistakes. If they have no experience of social media, when young and enter the 'real' world, they can be vulnerable to the negative aspects.

Along with connections mentioned, you can find your passion - interest groups with the same focus e.g. music.

Students' presentations followed. Some groups had carried out research, collected data from their peers and others to gain wider views, to inform presentation of their finding. This year's students made a valuable contribution to the debate on the effect of Social Media on our young people and society.



Gathering in Queen's Hall prior to Speeches



Gathering in the Legislative Council Chamber for the speeches in 2024.



Meena Singh, Keynote Speaker

Robyn Byrne OAM, Convenor Standing Committee

[Shingles](#) (also called herpes zoster) is the disease caused when the [chickenpox](#) virus reactivates. Shingles can cause severe pain that can last for months.

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect yourself from serious disease caused by shingles.

Who should get vaccinated against shingles?

A free shingles vaccination under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) is available for eligible people most at risk of complications from shingles.

A 2-dose course of Shingrix is available for free for:

- people aged 65 years and over
- First Nations people aged 50 years and over
- immunocompromised people aged 18 years and over with the following medical conditions:
 - haematopoietic stem cell transplant
 - solid organ transplant
 - haematological malignancy
 - advanced or untreated HIV.

Barbara Latham: Adviser



Webinar ID 850 3398 1580 Passcode: 0 54344 Thursday 12 September, 1pm AEST

Australia has implemented significant reforms to its vaping regulations to tighten control over the availability and distribution of products to help curb the rise of vaping, particularly amongst young people. Join us for our latest CHF Talks webinar as we break down the pending changes to regulations that will take effect from 1 October 2024 and the impact on consumers, retailers, and the vaping community at large. Our expert panel will guide you through:

- Key Changes: What exactly is changing?
- Consumer Impact: How will these changes affect your vaping habits and purchasing options?
- Working with health professionals: What is the role of GPs and pharmacists. How can they support you?

[Join Webinar](#)



In a major new report National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds is calling for transformational change to Australia's child justice system that puts child wellbeing first and addresses the root causes of offending by children.

'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing – sets out a suite of recommendations aimed at helping vulnerable children thrive while keeping the broader community safe.

Commissioner Hollonds says the treatment of children in the criminal justice system, some as young as 10 years old, is one of the most urgent human rights issues facing Australia. "For too long governments have ignored the evidence that prevention, not punishment, is key to keeping our children and the community safe," Ms Hollonds said.

[Read the media release](#)

The report calls for reform based on evidence and human rights. It highlights that reform requires child safety and wellbeing to be made a national priority. It calls for collaborative action across federal, state and territory governments with a range of measures including a National Taskforce for reform of child justice, a federal Minister for Children, a national Ministerial Council for Child Wellbeing and better protection of children's rights via a National Children's Act. We won't be able to make our communities safer places for everyone if we just keep punishing and locking up kids without addressing the root causes of child offending: poverty, homelessness, disability, mental health, systemic racism and intergenerational trauma," Ms Hollonds said.

[Read the full report and its recommendations](#)

OTHER NEWS

Environment Victoria

It's National Threatened Species Day 7th September, and it's a topic that's been in the news this week for all the wrong reasons. On Monday, media reported that the Federal Government was considering *weakening* plans for a national Environment Protection Agency. Just a day later, Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek announced 20 plants and animals had been added to the threatened species list. It comes on the back of last year, which had more species added than any other year since the list was established. Our government can't stand by as more species inch further towards extinction. We need them to protect our native plants and animals! Together with state environment groups from across the country, we're calling on our government to deliver strong laws – this year – to stop our iconic wildlife and plants from going extinct.

[Will you add your voice this Threatened Species Day? >>](#)

[Speak up for strong nature laws](#)



Women with Disabilities (WDV) Board Recruitment Event, Tuesday 10 September, 6-7pm

Where: Online **Cost:** Free (registration is required)

The WDV Board invites Members and interested participants to join them for a Board information session ahead of the 2024 Annual General Meeting. The session will cover:

- Information about Women with Disabilities Victoria
- What it means to be a Director
- What support is available
- The application and election process
- Questions

Click on the link to register. [Click here to register](#)

Thank you to members and supporters of Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV)

After weeks of uncertainty, WDV is delighted to announce we have received a further year's funding for the vital community engagement arm of our organisation. This means our four [Hubs across Victoria](#) will reopen and our [Women's Empowerment programs](#) will be offered again. We will be able to retain many of our skilled staff, whose jobs would have been made redundant by the funding shortfall. If you'd like to read more about our funding, read our media release [here](#).

The best way to support WDV's funding into the future is to become a member, if you aren't already a member or if you know someone who might like to join – please join via our website, linked [here](#).

Membership is free for women and non-binary people with disabilities and a small fee for others.

More about the Hubs and the Enabling Women Program: Women or non-binary people with disability can join a WDV Hub by contacting Sarah Franzoni on (03) 9286 7827 or sara.franzoni@wdv.org.au. The four Hubs are:

Melbourne Outer East (Upper Fern Tree Gully area)

Moira (Cobram area); (Geelong and surrounding districts); Bendigo (Bendigo and surrounding districts).

Women or non-binary people with disability who would like to join an Enabling Women Leadership Program can contact Bridget Jolley on (03) 9286 7813 or bridget.jolley@wdv.org.au.

International Equal Pay Day Panel with Fitted for Work, Wednesday 18 September, 6-9pm

Where: Fitted for Work - 513 Bridge Rd, Richmond; **Cost:** \$39 (100% of proceeds support Fitted for Work)

Fitted for Work invites you to mark International Equal Pay Day at a panel event hosted by Jo Stanley, Founder and CEO of Broad Radio, panellists from across the corporate, community services, and consulting sectors, exploring factors contributing to the pay gap, role of organisations in , and how we can work together to create an equitable future for all [Click here to buy your ticket](#) .



The Hatchery: Women are woefully underrepresented in Australia's STEMM industries.

Join us on the **18 - 19 of September in Sydney or online** for [the Women in STEM](#)

[Leadership Summit: Celebrating triumphs & diversity in technical fields](#). This event seeks to champion women that are leading the charge for women to thrive across Australia.

Attend and uncover strategies for breaking barriers, overcoming challenges and ultimately support a more inclusive future for all in STEM. [Details here](#).

Australian Human Rights Commission

The Australian Human Rights Commission's *Speaking from Experience* project invites people who have been sexually harassed at work to have their say about what they think needs to change to make workplaces safer. What we are told will help us create resources that will help workers and employers to make workplaces safer for everyone.

There are two ways you can take part in *Speaking from Experience*. You can share your ideas by writing a submission or recording an audio submission. The Commission will also hold face-to-face meetings throughout Australia to make sure the voices of marginalised groups are heard. We will do this by partnering with local community organisations. For these meetings, we will focus on speaking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers, young people, culturally and racially marginalised workers, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ workers, and other groups who are more often targeted by perpetrators of workplace sexual harassment.

If you are a community organisation and would like to know more about face-to-face meetings, please email speakingfromexperience@humanrights.gov.au

Workplace sexual harassment is common. In Australia, 1 in 3 people have been sexually harassed at work in the last five years. If you have been sexually harassed at work, we want to hear from you. Your ideas on how to address workplace sexual harassment are important, and they can help us create resources and advice to make workplaces safer. They might also be used to improve policy and practice to address workplace sexual harassment in the future.

Our Purposes: *to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.*

Our motto: *The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said "We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."*

National Council of Women of Victoria Meeting Dates for 2024

| Month | Date | Day | Meeting Type | Time | Method |
|-----------|------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| September | 5 th | Thursday | NCWV AGM | 12:15 | Zoom and Ross Hse |
| September | 9 th | Monday | Standing Committee Meeting | 16:30 | Zoom |
| September | 19 th | Thursday | Committee Meeting | 10:00 | RHSV |
| October | 3 rd | Thursday | Individual Members & Council Meetings | 11:00, 12:15 | Zoom and Ross Hse |
| October | 14 th | Monday | Standing Committee Meeting | 16:30 | Zoom |
| October | 17 th | Thursday | Committee Meeting | 10:00 | RHSV |
| November | 7 th | Thursday | Council Meeting | 17:15 | Zoom |
| November | 15 th | Thursday | Committee Meeting | 10:00 | RHSV |
| November | 21/22 | | NCWA AGM & Conference | | Adelaide |
| November | 28 th | Thursday | Annual Luncheon | 12:00 | In person |
| December | 5 th | Thursday | Individual Members & Council Meetings | 11:00, 12:15 | Zoom and Ross Hse |

This publication is compiled and edited by Pam Hammond, Vice-President NCWV, with support from President, Elida Brereton.